

# Committee on Civic Engagement

Senate of the Associated Students 87th Session  
Minutes for Wednesday, May 8th, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.  
President's Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union

## 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Senator Doyle called the meeting on Civic Engagement to order on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 2:00pm in the Presidents Conference Room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Joe Crowley Student Union. Presiding Secretary, Morgan Zimmerman.

## 2. ROLL CALL

Senators Doyle, Banfer, D. Hall, Romero, Scott, Westerman, and Yang were present. Senator Melchor was absent unexcused. Senator Rogers was absent excused. A quorum was present.

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

## 4. MINUTES

There are no minutes to be heard at this time.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

### a. **Overview of Goals**

The Committee will now discuss and review the goals created in the previous meeting as well as add new ones if needed.

Senator Doyle said he just wanted to highlight an create themes for the months. Each senator will be assigned to a month and a theme, and create outreach events as described in the SAS.

Senator Westerman asked if they could buddy up on the months.

Senator Doyle said absolutely, and asked if there were any other goals.

Senator Westerman asked if they wanted to try to set a turn out goal or participation goals.

Senator Doyle said that would be beneficial because they want to reach as many students as possible, but he is not sure how to implement that. It could be something based off of the first event.

Senator Romero said they could buddy up, but will have their own thing. She also asked if it is mandatory that the committee goes to all of the events.

Posted at or before 9:00am on the third business day before the meeting.  
Posted at the ASUN Offices in the Joe Crowley Student Union, Frandsen Humanities Building, the Pennington Student Achievement Center, Mathewson- IGT Knowledge Center, and online at [www.nevadaasun.com](http://www.nevadaasun.com).

If you would like a copy of any of the agenda items listed, please contact Senator Doyle at [senatordoyle@asun.unr.edu](mailto:senatordoyle@asun.unr.edu)



Senator Doyle said the goal is the head of the month and himself will go and take charge. As a committee they will all be planning and helping.

Senator Romero clarified they would not be mandatory.

Senator Doyle said he would hope to make it mandatory or maybe even something like outreach hours.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Election of a Vice Chair**

The Committee will nominate and elect a Vice-Chair for the Committee on Civic Engagement.

Senator Westerman moved to nominate Senator Yang for the position of Vice Chair for the Committee on Civic Engagement.

Senator Yang accepted.

Senator Yang said she is actually very familiar and involved with Civic Engagement, a part of Honors Bonner leaders program, where she committed to 280 hours of service for four years. She is also a partner's intern for a nonprofit and academic institution, so she has familiarity with reaching out to the community, and attending events. She will also be willing to help Senator Doyle along with this process. She understands Civic Engagement and the core value to have, as well as the emphases of importance on civic learning.

Senator Doyle asked if there were questions or discussion.

Senator Banfer moved to approve the nomination of Senator Yang for the position of Vice Chair on the Committee for Civic Engagement.

Senator Westerman seconded.

All were in favor.

Motion carried.

### **b. Committee Themes**

The Committee will set themes for the upcoming 2019-2020 academic school year. There will be a different theme each month and will be used as a guideline for the Outreach events the Committee creates.

Senator Doyle said he would like to discuss set themes for each month, and there are certain ones he wants to drive. He asked what everyone's ideas were.

Senator Yang said hers is a broad thought about going with what is already there. For example, there are different culture months, issue awareness months. So, sexual assault, civic engagement months, appreciation month, earth month. Those are just a few examples.

Senator Westerman said going off of the article that Senator Doyle sent, seeing as this is an upcoming election year primaries are going to be very important as will be getting students as engaged and educated as possible.

Senator Banfer said the themes that she thought would be important are politics/general election, social issues, social awareness months, their version of pride month, maybe a diversity month including cultural thought inclusivity, mental health month, etc.

Senator Romero said they she had couple in her emails, and she broke it down by month based on things in the month. So, December during finals mental health, pack pride in August, incoming students panel to introduce it. She can also look through it and see a combined bunch of things, even everything with presidential elections, that could be something in November.

Senator Doyle said he has black history, sex awareness, teachers, thanksgiving, hunger, homelessness, day of dead.

Senator D. Hall said she liked the idea that Senators Banfer and Westerman mentioned: inclusivity, and political awareness month.

Senator Scott said he likes the idea of during midterms and finals offering opportunities to de-stress and kind of step away from academics, use as an opportunity to chat with them. They could use this as an opportunity to reach out with students.

Senator Westerman asked what item they were on.

Senator Doyle said Committee Themes.

**c. Outreach Event Ideas**

The Committee will discuss new ideas regarding the mandatory Outreach events per the duties listed in the 87<sup>th</sup> Senate Session Rules

Senator Westerman said building off of themes, and adding on to Senator Banfer's lgbtq+ idea, it would be cool to do something for national coming out day. Even if its just a tabling event, working with the department of diversity and inclusion on visibility days, and things like that because students can be ignorant on these topics. In addition, she thinks that utilizing the director of campus and public relations and collaborating on town halls would be beneficial.

Senator Romero asked if it is it possible to make a document where everyone can put potential people and organizations to work with. Working with educators or others on campus would be great, and that way they can work with a complete list.

Senator Doyle said he would love to, that's a great idea. An excel sheet or even word just all of the factors of everything they have. She could share and they can all collaborate on it.

D. Hall said the Attorney General also has more information on outreach, they can show students about initiatives and it is a great way for us to all be a part of that, it would be great to work with him.

Senator Yang said to clarify Service Palooza is a service event with nonprofits to reach out for volunteer activities.

Senator Doyle confirmed and said they can always do multiple of those.

Senator Yang said they could go hand in hand with the themes. Each month with different themes they could do different volunteer opportunities to go with those themes.

Senator Banfer said they should do an event for political awareness moths, panel or ask me anything electronic or whatever, where people have the ability to ask their questions that they have about the government and the way it works.

Senator Doyle said that sounds amazing and they could include others from different departments.

Senator Romero said this could help out clubs and orgs that already have events on campus.

Senator Doyle asked Senator Scott if he had anything he wanted to add.

Senator Scott did not.

Senator Banfer said maybe each month they can have mini events where each club can participate to.

Senator Doyle asked her to repeat what she said.

Senator Banfer said the clubs and organizations that pertain to the themes could come join in on the events too.

Senator Yang clarified they act like facilitators.

Senator Doyle confirmed and said they also put on the events.

**d. Discussion on the Differences Between Civic Engagement and Democratic Civic Engagement**

The Committee will now discuss the differences between Civic Engagement and Democratic Civic Engagement.

Senator Doyle said if they have it pulled up, it is the chart he sent out.

Dr. Beattie said he just resent it to everyone.

Senator Doyle said it was in his senator email. He just wanted to highlight the differences its community relationships, going through the list personally he believes that their senate body works on the right side of the list. As they promote academic courses, academic work done with the public relational locals, contextual procreation of knowledge, going out into the community and creating solutions, inclusive,

collaborative democracy. They represent what people want to see.

Senator Yang said she believes in democratic civic engagement because they have a whole center as a committee to encourage this in their academics.

Senator D. Hall said also going off Senator Yang, they are there to provide purpose and help people be better.

Dr. Beattie said let's walk through the differences between partnership and reciprocity.

Senator Romero said she thinks reciprocity working with each other it is less one sided and it is collaborative.

Senator Yang said she see's partnership if one were to volunteer for them for personal gain, reciprocity form partnership helping them and long run build as a person and built relationship with them to grow over time, larger position, not just doing it for personal gain.

Dr. Beattie said perfect, partnership is a common goal whereas reciprocity is mutual gain. Next, Deficit Based Understanding vs. Assed Based Understanding.

Senator Banfer said she sees it as glass half full/glass half empty, that positive or negative outlook changes how you approach issues and progress.

Dr. Beattie said too often university's fall into deficit based understanding where the community is lacking and they have nothing to offer. The university will come down and save the community, asset based they understand and have something to offer. What we really want to be doing is moving from civic towards democratic engagement. Another example is, America goes to different countries ego or ethno centric, work done with the public, and come up with the public. Look at these things what you will see is civic engagement is traditionally one sided, democratic everybody can learn and it is valuable. He just wanted to make sure everyone understands. When you start looking at it that way, students are selfish and they want to put on my resume. They know this because students are honest on surveys. In the end what they want to do is achieve democratic civic engagement.

Senator Doyle said thank you so much he just wanted to highlight that they are there for students and would not be here without the students. Assistant Director Green and himself discussed this as well. He would love to continue this conversation and create transparency regarding this, if students are confused they are not being as transparent. He wants to also have a conversation with Amy and come back to it.

**e. Discussion on Service Palooza**

The Committee will now discuss goals and ideas for Service Palooza

Senator Doyle said he had two meetings with Vice President Flangas and Director Lew regarding this because he had never been and didn't know what to do. He would love to hear about everyone's experiences and ideas.

Senator Yand said that surveys can be hard but it might be good to make a survey and just ask what people would be most interested to seeing.

Senator Doyle said since it is welcome week it might be best to send out over the summer.

Senator Yang suggested NevadaFIT.

Senator Romero said that is too last minute.

Senator D. Hall said she is not sure about that because they are freshman and they aren't exactly concerned with that.

Senator Banfer suggested the orientations.

Senator Yang said she doesn't think that is a bad idea either.

Senator D. Hall said she doesn't know about orientations because the Freshman don't really know what they are looking for most of the time.

Senator Westerman said she thinks at this point we can't get feedback because nobody will remember. Don't see any harm in sending out survey, what kind of community service people are interested and does not have to be something specific, but just an idea of what people are interested in doing.

Senator Scott asked if they have information about the previous years.

Senator Doyle said he had not received anything on it but would be willing to look into it.

Senator Scott said maybe they can see who went in the past, who they would like to bring back, and who the students would like to see back.

Senator Romero said she had never been either so just to clarify they are just getting nonprofits to come for volunteer opportunities.

Senator Doyle said yes, it's a networking opportunity. Each has a table and students can go around and talk to all of the nonprofits that are there.

Senator D. Hall said she went to it her freshman and sophomore year, what stood out was a local health center gave students vitamins.

Senator Romero said she has a list of potential places. For example: keep checking beautiful, big brother's big sisters, medical reserve, safe embrace, there are so many.

Senator Doyle said yes, send it out that would be wonderful.

Senator Romero said it is a opportunity for us to try to educate students so maybe handouts or something about why you should become involved. Make it fun and have

that for students to take, which is a very important a part of this experience.

Senator Doyle said they could have an included list with engagement, how to get involved, and gift pulse and things like that.

Senator Romero said she was sending her list.

Senator Doyle said thank you so much they will continue the discussion and work with the programmer who is assigned with this. He met with Director Lew but he still has to clarify that.

**f. Senator Updates**

Each Senator will give a report on their actions since the last meeting and what they have been working on.

Senator D. Hall said she did some outreach at journalism student council, she told them which committees she was on and they had a lot to say about Civic Engagement. She said that Civic Engagement had a reputation for not following through, and she thinks it is important that they hold each other accountable and focus on their follow through.

Senator Romero emailed the list, but she definitely wants to go back and update from 2017. There are a lot more places she can add for next time.

Senator Doyle said that would be great.

Senator Romero said she had both on and off campus options.

Senator Westerman said she recently spoke with Mika Alvarez who told her about many events, such as democracy plaza. She thinks it would be good to look into those kinds of events as well.

Dr. Beattie said before they move forward with that they should meet with Hannah Jackson she is the one who did all of the groundwork for that.

Senator Doyle said if anyone is interested let him know.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Senator Doyle adjourned the meeting at 2:46pm.

**9. NOTES.**

Unless otherwise marked by an asterisk, all items are action items upon which the Senate may take action. ASUN supports providing equal access to all programs for people with disabilities. Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically handicapped persons desiring to attend the meeting. Please call the Speaker of the ASUN at (775) 784-6589 in advance so that arrangements may be conveniently made.